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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Patrick J. Muraca
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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

This Supplemental Preliminary Amendment is being filed in response to the Office communication mailed from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on November 14, 2003 in the above-identified application. No new matter is being added.

An extension of time to respond to the Office communication is respectfully requested. A Petition for Extension of Time and the appropriate fee are being filed concurrently with this Amendment.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendment to the Drawings begin on page 5 of this paper and include substitute drawings (4 marked-up sheets/3 replacement sheets) filed herewith.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.

Please enter the following amendments and remarks.